

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway  
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### **POPLAR MAN SENTENCED TO 327 MONTHS FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

August 13, 2007

A Poplar Bluff, Missouri man was sentenced today on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

**BILLY GENE RIPPEE**, age 45, was sentenced to 327 months on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge Jean C. Hamilton.

On December 10, 2003, a burglary occurred at a residence located on Holiday Road in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Taken during the burglary were a jewelry box, jewelry, and a Rossi, .38 caliber pistol. On December 22, 2003, law enforcement officers contacted Billy Rippee at his residence concerning an outstanding warrant on another matter. Rippee was found in possession of the stolen

Rossi, .38 caliber pistol, jewelry and the jewelry box. Because of Rippee's prior felony convictions, he is prohibited by law from possessing firearms.

Hanaway praised the Poplar Bluff Police Department, the Butler County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.